

REMARKS

Claims 90-92, 103-106, and 117 are amended, and claims 93 and 107 are canceled. In addition, claims 120-123 are new. Claims 90-92, 94-106, and 108-123 are now pending. Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the application.

Claims 90-98, 102-112, and 116-119 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent No. 3,550,261 to Schroeder ("Schroeder"). In addition, claims 99-101 and 113-115 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious in view of Schroeder. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Independent claim 90 recites a "resilient, conductive contact structure . . . electrically coupled to [a] conductive element at [a] surface of [a] substrate," and claim 90 further recites that "a tip portion [of the contact structure is] displaced a vertical distance away from the surface of the substrate." As shown in the drawings of Schroeder, a tip of Schroeder's contact structure is not disposed a vertical distance away from the surface of the device 10 on which pad 12 is disposed. Nor is there any teaching or suggestion to modify Schroeder such that the tip is disposed a vertical distance from the surface. For at least the foregoing reason, independent claim 90 as well as the claims that depend from claim 90 are patentable over Schroeder.

Applicants note that new claim 120 recites "wherein the vertical distance is perpendicular to the surface of the substrate at which the conductive element is disposed, and new claim 121 recites "wherein the tip is disposed above the surface of the substrate at which the conductive element is disposed." Applicants respectfully assert that Schroeder does not teach or suggest such features, and claims 120 and 121 thus further distinguish over Schroeder.

With respect to claims 104 and the claims that depend from claim 104, Applicants submit that those claims are patentable over Schroeder for at least generally similar reasons to those discussed above with respect to claim 90.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (801) 323-5934.

Respectfully submitted,

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